

REMARKS

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the attention accorded to the instant application.

Formal Matters

In this amendment, claims 2-5, 8, 9, 11-14, 17, 18, 20 and 23 are amended. Claims 1, 10 and 19 are canceled. Specifically, claims 2, 11 and 20 are amended to incorporate the features and limitations of claims 1, 10 and 19, respectively. Claims 3-5, 8, 9, 12-14, 17, 18, and 23 are amended to reflect amended claims 2, 11, and 20, respectively. Claims 11-18 are also amended to recite computer software in accordance with a new format proposed by the USPTO.

Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner review and consider the references cited in the Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) filed with the application on September 29, 2003, as well as the IDSs filed July 16, 2003 and September 1, 2005. As the Examiner requests, the translation of the Japanese Office Action submitted in an IDS mailed September 1, 2005, is submitted herewith. Also, as the Examiner requests, the search report from the European Patent Office originally submitted with an IDS on July 16, 2004 is submitted herewith.

Summary of Telephone Interview

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the telephone interview of March 16, 2007, and for the summary of the interview mailed March 21, 2007. Applicant agrees with the Examiner's interview summary.

Conclusion

Since the above amendments to the claims do not introduce new matter into the application, entry thereof is respectfully requested.

Consideration and allowance of the claims of the present application are thus respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this Amendment, or regarding the Application generally, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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